

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Rural Development Department – NTR Pensions to Old Age Persons & Widows- Old Age Pensions- Reducing of the age limit for Scheduled Tribes in the State from (65) to (50) years to become eligible for Old Age Pensions under the scheme “NTR Pensions to Old Age Persons and Widows” – Orders - Issued.

PANCHAYAT RAJ AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (RD.I) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.No.49

Dated:10.02.2019

Read the following:-

1. G.O.Ms.No.113, PR & RD (RD. I) Department, dated 19.06.2014.
2. G.O.Ms.No.135, PR & RD (RD. I) Department, dated 17.09.2014.
3. G.O.Ms.No.157, PR & RD (RD. I) Department, dated 16.12.2014
4. U.O. Note No.TW-21025(45)/1/2018-BUGT-TW, dated -02-2019

ORDER:

In the reference 4th read above, the Tribal Welfare Department have informed as follows:

- a) Due to the past history, amongst the Tribal population of Andhra Pradesh, of high disease incidence, poor nutrition standards, poor access of health services, etc. the cumulated negative consequences are manifesting in the Tribal population currently of the age cohort above (50) years and is leading to higher incidence of illness, incapacitation to do work and higher out of pocket expenditure towards accessing medical aid/treatment in this age category.
- b) The above situation, peculiar to the Scheduled Tribes population of the State, has arisen due to (a) remote & isolated nature of their habitations (b) presence of dense forest cover (c) poor road connectivity (d) scattered/ isolated nature of habitations (e) absence/thin telecommunication facilities (f) Poor nutrition intake leading to stunting and wasting, making them more susceptible to diseases. All these factors, have in the past, on the one hand provided a conducive environment for the outbreak of communicable diseases and affliction of the tribal population by non-communicable diseases & on the other hand created challenges in the outreach of health services in the tribal areas, making the tribal population vulnerable from the health point of view, with higher morbidity and disease burden, compared to the other population groups.
- c) The NFH Survey-2015-16 Report data has reported higher incidence among the Scheduled Tribe population of Andhra Pradesh of Diabetes, Asthma, Goitre/Thyroid illness & Heart disease. Further, the ST population faces a relatively higher risk of morbidity (calculated on the basis of Anemia, Sickle Cell, Thalassemia, Fluorosis & others) and High Chronic Energy deficiency.
- d) Further, that while, currently the Scheduled Tribes above (65) years of age are provided by the safety net of the “NTR Pension to Old Age Persons & Widows” scheme which helps to defray the cost towards medical aid & is a source of sustenance, the Scheduled Tribes in the age group of (50) years to (65) years do not have such safety net and therefore face immense hardship.
- e) Duly considering the above, and the hardship being faced, the Nodal Agency for STC, in its 20th meeting held on 22.06.2018, has considered & approved the proposal for reducing the age for eligibility under the Old Age Pension scheme from (65) to (50) years for Scheduled Tribes in the State.

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- f) Further, the Hon'ble Chief Minister, during World Adivasi Day Celebrations, held on 9-8-2018, at Paderu, has also made an announcement for reducing the age for eligibility under the Old Age Pension scheme from (65) to (50) years for Scheduled Tribes in the State.
- g) That, the Tribal Welfare Department has considered the proposal for reducing the age limit for Scheduled Tribes in the State from (65) to (50) years to become eligible for Old Age Pensions under the scheme "NTR Pensions to Old Age Persons and Widows scheme" and have obtained concurrence of the Finance Department vide U.O.No.39027/104/2018-SO(FMU(WF-I)) dated 9-2-2019 & have requested the PR & RD Department to issue the orders accordingly.
- h) The Tribal Welfare Department have further informed that the budget required to cover the additional beneficiaries, due to the lowering of age for OAP from (65) to (50) years shall be met from the budget allocations made under ST Component and additional budget will be provided, as required under the ST Component to the Panchayat Raj & Rural Development Department.
2. Government, after careful examination of the matter, hereby order the reduction of the age limit for Scheduled Tribes in the State from (65) to (50) years to become eligible for Old Age Pensions under the scheme "NTR Pensions to Old Age Persons and Widows scheme".
3. The Chief Executive Officer, SERP and all the District Collectors in the State shall take the necessary action for the implementation of this order and for ensuring that the benefit reaches all the eligible members of the Scheduled Tribes in the State.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)
SOLOMON AROKIA RAJ
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT (SERP)

To
The Chief Executive Officer, SERP, Vijayawada.
All District Collectors in the State.

Copy to:

The Director of Tribal Welfare, A.P., Vijayawada.
All Project Officers, Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDAs) in AP.
All Project Directors, District Rural Development Agency (DRDA), Velugu, AP.
The Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister.
The PS to Minister (SERP)
The PS to Minister (TWE)
The PS to Chief Secretary
The PS to Secretary (SERP)
The PS to Spl.C.S. Finance Department.
The PS to Principal Secretary, TW
SF/SC.

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER